



TENTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

NOVEMBER, 1862.



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CITY OF BOSTON.



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

1862.

In Board of Aldermen, November 17, 1862.

Laid on the table, and 800 copies ordered to be printed.

Attest :

S. F. McCLEARY, *City Clerk.*

CITY OF BOSTON.

PUBLIC LIBRARY, 15 November, 1862.

HIS HONOR, JOSEPH M. WIGHTMAN, *Mayor of the City of Boston :*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you, herewith, the Tenth Annual Report of the Trustees of the Public Library, prepared in obedience to the fourth section of the Ordinance of the 14th of October, 1852, providing for the establishment and regulation of the Public Library.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES C. JEWETT,
Secretary of the Board of Trustees.

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

IN obedience to the fourth section of the Ordinance of October 14th, 1852, providing for the establishment and regulation of the Public Library, the Trustees ask leave to submit to the City Council their Tenth Annual

R E P O R T .

And first, as a part of their duty, under the ordinance above referred to, they duly appointed a committee of five citizens at large, with a member of the Board of Trustees, as their chairman, to examine the Library and make report of its condition. This committee, consisting of Daniel H. Whitney, Esq., as its chairman, and Charles P. Curtis, Esq., Moses L. Hale, Esq., Rev. Thomas B. Thayer, Edward S. Tobey, Esq., and Hon. Samuel H. Walley, as its other members, having made the report solicited from them, and presented it, as required by the ordinance, to the Trustees, it is herewith annexed, marked A, together with the customary report of the Superintendent, which is marked B.

To statements so ample, clear, and satisfactory as are contained in each of these reports, little can be added, either to explain the operations of the Library during the past year, or to set forth its present condition and prospects. But as the ordinance under which they act demands from the Trustees

an annual exposition of the affairs it confides to them, they will now as briefly as possible, fulfil the duty thus imposed on them, premising, at the same time, that for all needful details, they would refer to the statistics furnished in the documents already mentioned, and which they ask leave to make a part of this present report.

From these sources, then, it appears that seven thousand three hundred and ninety-one volumes have been added to the Library during the year, making the whole number on its shelves—excluding duplicates and broken sets—something over one hundred thousand. The number lent for use at home,—excluding, of course, those used in the Reading Rooms, by about two hundred and eighty persons, who resort there daily, on an average throughout the year, and excluding also a very large though not an equal number of books used for study, reference, and consultation, daily, in the Upper Hall,—the number lent for home use *alone* has been one hundred and eighty thousand three hundred and two, or a daily average of six hundred and twenty-six, during the two hundred and eighty-eight days on which the Library was open;—facts which the Trustees report with satisfaction; because they show that the Library, during the last year, has extended its excellent influences much wider than ever before. Indeed if we could add to the numbers given above, the number of persons who have visited the Library and consulted its books, without leaving any record behind them, the average daily aggregate would, no doubt, materially exceed a thousand persons.

To the two hundred and thirty-four individuals and public bodies, whose names are set forth in the Superintendent's Report, as having given to the institution twelve hundred and seventy-four books, and nearly fifteen hundred pamphlets, the Trustees would make their grateful acknowledgments. Some of these contributions are of great value. All are welcome, and will readily find a suitable place in our collections.

In this connection the Trustees feel bound particularly to

acknowledge the continued liberality of His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of the French, in the prompt transmission, as they issue from the press, of the volumes of the Correspondence of Napoleon the First, a work of rare interest and importance,—and also to renew their thanks to the Royal Commissioners of Patents, in England, who have not failed regularly to furnish the Library with the successive portions of their costly and invaluable publication. Nor would the other Trustees pass without especial notice, the thoughtful kindness of one of their number, (Mr. Ticknor, to whom the institution is in many respects under the highest obligation,) in the donation of the interesting and valuable collection of books, originally commenced by our lamented and beloved fellow-citizen, Mr. Prescott, and continued by Mr. Ticknor himself, pertaining to the Life and Works of Molière. A letter from Mr. Ticknor, accompanying this donation, with the acknowledgment of the Trustees, is appended to this Report, marked C.

The thanks of the Trustees are also due to the Superintendent, and all associated with him, for their zeal and efficiency in the daily management of the Library during the year now closed, as well as in the years gone by;—an acknowledgment in which we feel sure that those most familiar with the institution, and who have oftenest witnessed and shared its benefits, will the most heartily concur. For ourselves, as Trustees, we can only say that we have not knowingly neglected our duties to the Library. Our meetings have been held regularly twice a month, and oftener when needed. We have done what we could, and all that it seemed desirable for us to do, to promote the welfare of the institution.

It only remains for us, therefore, now to commend the Library and its interests,—as a part of the great system of public instruction in the city,—to its earnest friends and patrons; to the municipal government which has so long and faithfully cherished it; and to the community for whose benefit, as we believe, it has been no less faithfully administered; sure that its

past extraordinary success, and its present beneficent working, obvious as it is to all, will claim for it, better than we can, any countenance and patronage which in the judgment of the City Council it may now or hereafter need or deserve. Leaving it therefore, as we doubt not it may safely be left, to speak for itself, we conclude our present report with a single further thought.

The measure of a nation's elevation is marked by nothing so surely as by those great institutions, on which all true civilization depends. The measure of a city's honor and influence is no less surely marked by the contributions, which through the general education and nurture of its people, it affords toward maintaining the welfare, dignity, and strength of the whole State of which it is a part, and in whose fortunes and condition its own fortunes and fate are inseparately involved. During periods of public trial and suffering, the duty that necessarily results from the claims of this general and true culture for ourselves and our children may, indeed, become onerous, but it is not on that account less imperative, nor are the results that will flow from its fulfilment less important and pressing. It is a great duty still. And the history and working of the Public Library during the last year not only show that this duty can be amply performed with the most satisfactory and consoling results, in a season of general doubt and agitation, but they show this — as far as a single institution can show it — in a manner not to be mistaken or overlooked. For many, very many, of the thousands, who, only a year or eighteen months ago, trusted to the Public Library for instruction and improvement, are now far away from its pleasant halls, defending whatever is dearest in our own rights and hopes as well as what is dearest in theirs. But the Library itself, though it misses so many familiar and kindly faces, was never before so much wanted, never so much resorted to, never so important to this whole community as it has been during the last year. Those who have remained at home have needed it for a relief to their oppressed thoughts, for

encouragement under anxiety, for instruction and help in the business and burdens of life that have suddenly fallen upon them with a weight heretofore unknown. To such, and their number is great, the Library more than any other of our municipal institutions has been a blessing, such as it never was in any previous year of its existence.

What the next year may bring forth to any of us, none may now be sagacious enough to foresee, or bold enough to predict. But one thing is certain. However much our material resources may be diminished, — and somewhat diminished they must be, — nothing can compensate us for the loss we may sustain, — nothing can even in a moderate degree repair it, except an increase in those great, preponderating *moral* resources, which depend upon a wise and dutiful cultivation of the faculties which our Creator has bestowed upon all of us, and for the right use of which he will hold us responsible.

EDWARD EVERETT,
JOHN P. BIGELOW,
NATHANIEL B. SHURTLEFF,
WILLIAM W. GREENOUGH,
E. T. WILSON,
DANIEL H. WHITNEY.

PUBLIC LIBRARY, 15 *November*, 1862.

NOTE. — The name of Mr. Ticknor is omitted among the signatures of the Trustees, in consequence of the allusion made to him in the Report.

[A]

REPORT OF THE EXAMINING COMMITTEE.

THE Committee appointed in compliance with the seventh section of the Ordinance in relation to the Public Library, dated the 14th of October, 1852, “to examine the Library and make report of its condition to the Trustees,” respectfully

R E P O R T ,

That they have attended to the duty assigned them, and have examined with as much detail as seemed needful and proper, into the organization, condition, and progress of the Library. They have pursued the same method of inquiry as former committees, and they now propose to present the results of their observations, as in preceding reports, under the heads of, first, The Books; second, The Catalogues; third, The Building; fourth, The Administration.

I. THE BOOKS. — The additions to the Library, since the last annual examination, are: 7,391 books; 1,493 pamphlets; 3 engravings; 11 maps; 2 manuscripts; 10 pieces of music, and 993 separate numbers of newspapers.

Of these, 6,117 books, 9 maps, and 1 manuscript were obtained by purchase, and the remainder by donation from 234 persons and institutions.

The means for purchasing are derived from the income of

funds presented or bequeathed to the City for the purpose, and from the annual appropriations made by the City.

The permanent funds are invested in city loans, drawing six per cent. interest. They are the following :—

The Bates Fund, presented by Joshua Bates . . .	\$ 50,000
The Phillips Fund, \$ 10,000 presented, and \$ 20,000 bequeathed by Jonathan Phillips . . .	30,000
The Lawrence Fund, bequeathed by Abbot Lawrence, .	10,000
The Townsend Fund, presented by William Minot, and William Minot, Jr., in compliance with the will of Miss Mary Townsend	4,000
The Bigelow Fund, presented by John P. Bigelow . .	1,000
	<hr/>
	\$ 95,000

The income of these funds, now amounting to \$ 5,700, is devoted to the purchase of books of such character, and in such manner, as were required by the donors; and the Committee have noticed with pleasure, the punctilious care with which these noble public benefactions have been administered.

The Committee learned that the portion of the city appropriations devoted to the purchase of books, had been, year by year, expended entirely upon popular books for general reading, placed in the Lower Hall, and for the current periodicals, of which about 150, meeting the wants and pursuits of all classes of readers, are regularly received.

The donations which have been shown to the Committee, as those received since the last examination, furnish in their number, their value, and in the sources from which they were derived, most gratifying evidence of the unabated interest with which the Library is regarded by our fellow-citizens, and by friends at a distance. The Committee would refer to the Report of the Superintendent for a particular description of several of these donations, and to the list appended to his report for the names of the donors, and the number of volumes presented by each.

With the accessions above enumerated, the Library contains 105,034 books, counted as they stand upon the shelves, besides 28,874 pamphlets, unbound.

84,153 volumes of the most substantial character, are placed in the Upper Hall, and are lent out to the public freely, but with such necessary safeguards as experience and good judgment have suggested. 20,881 volumes of a more popular kind, but comprising, still, the best standard works for general use, are placed in the Lower Hall, where every facility has been provided for their widest circulation.

Every library to which books are presented, — oftentimes without a knowledge on the part of the donors of the former possessions of the institution, — will of necessity gather duplicates. The Committee found 4,794 duplicates and odd volumes in the Public Library. They were glad to know that proper lists had been made of these, and that they were held for exchange and not for sale. The name of the donor of a book can be placed in the book which is procured in exchange for it, and thus the record of every benefaction be preserved.

The pamphlets were found to be fully and systematically arranged, and neatly kept, but it is understood to be the purpose of the Trustees to have all of them, which are sufficiently important, separately bound, and treated in all respects like books, which indeed, in all but their binding, they are. The plans of the Superintendent as explained to the Committee will greatly promote this design, by introducing a style of binding, which seems every way satisfactory, while it is far cheaper than the ordinary mode.

The Library has attained to this size in ten years. There is, the Committee believe, but one larger collection of books for public use in America, and that not many thousand volumes in advance. This is surely ground of present congratulation, and of good hope for the future. A noble beginning has been made. But it must be borne in mind that this Library is not yet, and cannot for many years become, all which the wants of an edu-

ated community require. The fostering care and the generous and enlightened liberality of the City Government, together with the continued benevolent regard of rich and cultivated citizens will, the Committee doubt not, carry forward the work with unflagging zeal and unbroken success. It is probable that more than three fourths of the possessions of the Library are private gifts. These possessions, as well stated by the Superintendent, are not only of intellectual, but of pecuniary value, worth in the market no inconsiderable portion of the whole amount expended for the support of the Library.

As to the character of the books, the Committee believe that they constitute as good a general library for reading and reference as, with the same number of volumes, could well be made. The greater part by far, have been systematically selected, as the Trustees have stated at length in their reports. There are not indeed many book-rarities here; but for every-day use, the first needed and the best books will generally be found.

The condition of the books is in the main excellent. Nearly all are substantially and appropriately bound. In the Lower Hall many books show marks of frequent—not a few of too careless—use. Books are actually worn out in the service—honestly worn out. To replace these, however, when no longer fit for use, costs comparatively little—two or three hundred dollars a year, perhaps. The books would last longer and be kept neater, if the hands in which they are placed were all of them accustomed to books; but all men of liberal minds will regard with indulgence soiling and injury which are not the result of wantonness or malice.

The Committee have received with great interest, and they may add surprise, the statements made to them respecting the use of the collections and the circulation of books. The aggregate of loans of books for home use, during the year ending the 1st of November, is 180,302 besides 10,263 loans of books to be used in the building, and an untold number of references from shelf to shelf, and of readings of articles in the peri-

odicals. On an average of the 288 days, during which the Library has been open, for the last year, 626 books a day have been lent out of the building. In one day 1,517 were delivered to borrowers. There were in the course of the year, 172,902 loans from the Lower Hall. This extensive circulation is the more remarkable from the facts that, during this year of the largest circulation yet reached, so many have been absent from the city as soldiers in our army; and that the minds of all the people have been so occupied with public troubles. The Library was most needed, it seems, at such a time. It has been frequented by those who were studying history and statistics with reference to our present crisis, and by those who were interested in the arts of war by sea and by land, in military engineering, and military surgery; and not only by those intent upon pursuits of public import, but also by those who sought relief from the weight of anxieties and cares, pressing heavily upon every class of the community.

II. THE CATALOGUES.—The system of catalogues adopted for the Library, and the progress made from year to year in its application, have been fully and clearly described in the annual reports of the Trustees, of the Visiting Committees, and of the Superintendent. In these respects nothing is left for the present Committee. To them has been reserved the pleasant duty of noticing the perfected work, and of reporting that it proves in a far greater degree than was ever promised for it, practical and useful. The first execution of such a plan makes a heavy demand upon the patience of those who are waiting for its accomplishment, but it cannot be denied that in this case, whatever of patience was required from the public has been amply rewarded. The printed Indexes have been in use,—that of the Lower Hall five years, and that of the Upper Hall one year,—and the Committee think no better praise can be given to them than to say, as may with truth be said, that they have met the public demand, and have been received with universal approval.

Four Supplements to the smaller Index have been issued, and the fifth is in press. During the printing of the larger Index, a great number of books, including the whole of Mr. Parker's Library, were received, and in the course of a few months from this time, a Supplement will be ready for the press containing nearly or quite 23,000 volumes. The Supplements to the Index of the Lower Hall will by that time require to be consolidated and reprinted.

The Committee observed with peculiar pleasure that the manuscript catalogue upon cards was completed to the very last books admitted to the Library; and, that with the exception of the Parker Library, all the books have been located upon the shelves, and entered upon the shelf lists. The shelves for the Parker Library are now finished, and the books will soon be arranged upon them.

It is satisfactory to know that the first steps upon such a system of catalogues, not only secure its perpetuation, but make its continuance a comparatively easy task. The great work is done, and if the Library should gradually increase to half a million volumes, or to a million, there will never be a time when the "catalogue question" will be surrounded proportionately with so many embarrassments as it has already passed safely through.

III. THE BUILDING. — The Committee examined the edifice in every part, grateful to the liberality of the City Government for providing so spacious, substantial, and handsome a building for such a purpose, and for providing so wisely for its preservation, and for its enlargement, when that may be necessary.

They deem it also an act of simple justice to the person having charge of the building, that they should bear testimony to his fidelity and diligence, and to the perfect order and cleanliness, which appear in every part of the structure, from roof to cellar. The furniture of the Library, the alcoves, shelves, and

books, the numerous flights of stairs, the floors, and all the dark corners and places, least exposed, bear witness to the faithful watch and care of Mr. Ford.

And when it is remembered what numbers are continually passing in and out of the building, whatever the weather, whatever the condition of our streets, it will be seen that this result, so pleasing to visitors, and so essential to the public exhibition and permanent preservation of its literary treasures, can only be obtained by constant supervision and persevering labor.

The allusion to “dark corners” in the preceding paragraph, leads to the mention of what impressed itself very forcibly on the minds of the Committee, viz : the necessity of more light in the alcoves and corners of the building. It seems to the Committee a marked defect in the architecture of this noble edifice, that there should have been no special arrangement for lighting the interior of the alcoves. In a dark or cloudy day it is very difficult to read the titles and numbers of the books in the extreme angles of these compartments.

The light from the roof and the windows does not penetrate into the recesses in sufficient volume to enable those seeking books to select them with rapidity and ease. And the same remarks apply to the corners of the front and rear, along which, the Bowditch and Parker Libraries are, or are to be, disposed ; where the evil is very manifest.

This partial and imperfect distribution of light is most undesirable in an institution of this character, and is often a serious hindrance to those employed in the work of the Library.

The Committee are not prepared to suggest any method by which this defect may be remedied ; but they have felt it their duty to call attention to the fact, not doubting but the practical wisdom of the Trustees would devise some way in which to remove the difficulty.

IV. THE ADMINISTRATION. — The care of the Library is confided to a Board of Trustees annually elected by the City

Council, composed of five members from the citizens at large, one from the Board of Aldermen, and one from the Common Council. The public service is devolved upon a Superintendent and Librarian, with such assistants and attendants as are required from time to time. The present number of persons employed in every capacity is seventeen. No one has been added to the number for three years, except for special service. The Committee only repeat the general verdict, when they say that the whole establishment has been from the beginning, admirably managed. They have discovered no important mistakes in the plans adopted, or the manner of their execution. They have been led to read over with care the several annual reports which have been presented, and they have been deeply impressed with the wisdom of the City Government in entrusting this rising and important interest to a Board of Managers so eminently fit for the duty, and keeping it from year to year in their hands, and the rare good fortune of the community in possessing citizens, and being able to secure their active services, so remarkably qualified in ability, culture, experience, and social position to lay the foundations of this establishment with such breadth, forecast, and fidelity.

And it should be observed that these gentlemen devote their time and talents, where, for themselves personally, they produce neither emolument nor honor, nor more assistance than to others in studies or in business. Such services can be commanded only for great public benefactions, and seldom for them.

Nor has the City been less fortunate in the officers of the institution. The duties required of the Superintendent, demand for their satisfactory discharge, a grade of ability, attainment, and experience, which are not often to be found, and which enable their possessor to compete for the highest literary positions. The first years of his service have shaped the whole future of the Library, and have received from the Trustees, and from the learned public, recognition and praise, to which the Committee would gladly add the full tribute of their assent.

The Librarian has held his position from the first days of the institution, and has filled it with intelligence, fidelity, and zeal, for which no commendation is too high. The Committee have the best evidence that all the persons employed in the institution have been selected for their well-known competence, and have fully justified the choice.

The Library when first started was regarded as an experiment. The boldest dared not hope for such results — so great and so speedy — as this Committee now see. The ordinance by which the Library was organized partook of the tentative character of the enterprise. It has been supplemented as occasion demanded. The Committee feel assured that the City Government will not fail to avail themselves of the experience of the Trustees who have conducted the institution so prosperously, in any modification or consolidation of the ordinances for the management of the Library which may be necessary. They therefore venture to suggest to the Trustees, (and they do it with some diffidence, as they have not conferred with any of them upon the subject,) the desirableness of such a change in the ordinance as would enable them to appoint the annual examination, and make their report, earlier in the year. It seems absolutely necessary to close the Library two or three weeks for this purpose. The proper custody of the books demands that they should be called in, counted, examined, and taken official cognizance of singly, at least as often as once a year. Such work takes time. This necessity unites with another relative to the cleanliness of the building. The daily frequenters of the Library are so numerous that it is impracticable to preserve the order and neatness of which the Committee have already expressed their approval, without the exclusion of the public from the building a few weeks each year. The closing of the Library being thus imperative, it seems desirable that it should take place at a season of the year least inconvenient to the public. In the month of October the lengthening evenings invite to reading, the public schools

resume their sessions, and many citizens absent from the city during the summer months, are returning to their winter homes and haunts. In August, perhaps, this inconvenience would be less than in any other month, and the first of September might, perhaps, be the best time for the annual report.✓

In concluding this report, the Committee would not fail to state that they have taken sincere pleasure in discharging the duties assigned to them, as they have thus been made more intimately acquainted with this admirable institution than they could otherwise have become; and as they now have an opportunity, by bearing testimony as citizens of Boston to its excellent condition and management, of doing something, as they would hope, to confirm its strong hold upon the well-merited confidence of the community.

All which is respectfully submitted.

DANIEL H. WHITNEY,
CHARLES P. CURTIS,
MOSES L. HALE,
THOMAS B. THAYER,
EDWARD S. TOBEY,
SAMUEL H. WALLEY.

[B]

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY
OF BOSTON.

GENTLEMEN: In obedience to a requirement of the "By-Laws relative to the Trustees and Officers of the Public Library," I ask leave to present to you the following

REPORT,

upon the condition and increase of the Library, during the year ending the 1st of November, 1862.

A period so fraught with public troubles and anxieties might have been supposed unfavorable to the progress of an institution of this kind; but I am happy to say that the year has been one of undiminished prosperity to the Library, and one in which more than ever before, its usefulness has been widely and beneficently felt, and gratefully acknowledged.

The additions to the Library since the last report, are: By purchase from the proceeds of invested funds and from the city appropriation, 6,117 books, 9 maps, and 1 manuscript. By donation, 1,274 books, 1,493 pamphlets, 2 maps, 3 engravings, 1 manuscript, 10 pieces of music, and 993 separate numbers of newspapers.

The whole number of books added to the Library is therefore 7,391, of which 1,226 are placed in the Lower Hall, and 6,165 in the Upper Hall.

The whole number of books at present belonging to the Library, is :

In the Upper Hall	84,153
In the Lower Hall	20,881
Total,	<hr/> 105,034

This number includes only bound volumes, as they stand upon the shelves ; but it comprises 4,794 duplicates, and odd volumes. The duplicates, however, being held for exchange, will probably procure nearly or quite the same number of volumes as permanent possessions of the institution.

Besides the books, there are in the Library, according to the enumeration continued from year to year, 28,874 unbound pamphlets, all of them assorted into classes, catalogued upon slips, and so ordered that they can be readily found for use.

The donations reported are due to the liberality and public spirit of 234 persons and institutions. A list of them is appended to this report, and marked [AA].

While acknowledging all with gratitude, it may not be amiss to refer especially to the gift by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and of the American Baptist Missionary Union, of their various important publications ; to the continued kindness of the Commissioners of Patents of Great Britain, and of the Trustees of the British Museum, in sending the valuable works year by year issued under their direction ; and to the repeated favors of his Majesty the Emperor of the French.

William G. Cranch, Esq., of Washington, has presented a nearly complete set of the *National Intelligencer* ; from the beginning down to 1844, in bound volumes, and from that period unbound and not complete to the date connecting it with the copy presented to the Library by Mr. Greenough. Mr. Francis A. Brooks has recently given a considerable number of volumes, which will probably by exchanges aid us greatly in

making the set absolutely perfect. The set presented by Mr. Cranch is least broken in the earliest volumes, which it is now almost impossible to procure. It is comparatively easy to supply the deficiencies which are found to exist in the later portions of the series. From the great intrinsic value of this publication, comprising as it does the best contemporary record of political affairs and opinions in America during the last sixty years, and from the great difficulty in procuring so complete a copy, this deserves to be mentioned as one of the most important of the donations to the Library. The donor is a son of the late Judge Cranch, and the value of the gift is enhanced by the fact that these are the very numbers which the honored magistrate received day by day for so long a course of years, and which he so carefully preserved. Mr. Cranch in his letter of presentation pays the following graceful tribute to this city and to the Public Library: "In the vicinity of Boston was the home of my parents, and I have therefore ever felt a deep interest in its prosperity, and in its literary institutions. With peculiar pleasure I have watched the growth of the Public Library, and observed the liberal public spirit which has laid the broad foundations of an institution whose healthful influence extends through all classes of the community, to the humblest as well as the highest."

It is also peculiarly gratifying to record the donation by William Picard, Esq., of Cadiz, of a copy of the magnificent work recently published by the Spanish Government upon the war in Africa. The work is of itself one of great value and interest, and one which, but for the generous thoughtfulness of Mr. Picard, — whose benefactions to the Library while he was a resident in the city have been named in former reports, — we might never have been able to procure.

I may be allowed also to refer to the new proof of interest in the Library shown by one of its earliest friends, M. Alexandre Vattemare, in a donation of 132 volumes; among them the continuation of the publication of French patents, the earlier

volumes of which he had previously presented. This donation was made directly to the City Government, and by them appropriately acknowledged.

Mr. Ticknor has recently presented to the Library 143 volumes of books relative to the Life of Molière, forming with those which we already possessed quite a complete collection of works pertaining to this subject, and one especially interesting from the fact mentioned by Mr. Ticknor in his letter of presentation, that the collection was commenced in 1837 by the late Mr. Prescott, who then entertained the project of writing a life of Molière, which he relinquished in consequence of the brilliant success of the *Ferdinand and Isabella*. He subsequently transferred the pleasant task thus unfulfilled, with the books pertaining to the subject, gathered at his request, to Mr. Ticknor, who cherished the theme, and continued to enlarge the collection of books for many years, but now leaves both, — the theme to “some scholar in the dark future,” the books to the Public Library. In the letter of presentation, Mr. Ticknor states :

“The number of volumes embraced in it is above 130. Of these 20 once belonged to Mr. Prescott, and can be readily distinguished by his book-plate, — a circumstance I mention because I think that the proof it affords of their former ownership will add much to their value in the eyes of those who may come after us, as it has always added much to their value in mine. The remainder — many of them rarities — have been, from time to time, picked up as I have happened to find them. Taken together, I believe they constitute a collection not without its bibliographical value, and one which does not leave much to be desired by any studious person who may wish to examine critically the works of Molière, or write his life.”

Some valuable works upon military matters have been presented by Colonel Sylvanus Thayer.

Mr. J. D. W. Williams of Roxbury has this year, as heretofore, sent repeated and valuable gifts ; and we are indebted to

our faithful agent in London, Mr. Henry T. Parker, for various donations from himself and others.

Another very acceptable and useful gift to the Library may be most appropriately noticed, by introducing the following letter of presentation :

BOSTON, *July 15, 1862.*

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY :

GENTLEMEN : On behalf of Mrs. S. A. Eliot, I have the honor to offer for your acceptance a clock made as a timepiece of peculiar accuracy, for the late Mr. Eliot, by Messrs. Howard & Davis.

I trust it may be accepted as a regulator of time in the Library, and that it may long serve to remind us and our successors of Mr. Eliot's important services and faithful attachment to the city where he was born, and of the respectful consideration in which he was always held by his fellow-citizens.

I remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,)

GEORGE TICKNOR.

Notwithstanding the great number of persons absent from the city, in the service of their country, and notwithstanding the preoccupation of all minds by the troublous condition of public affairs, the use of the Library has been more extensive than during any previous year. 4,326 new names have been added to the Register, making a total of 26,986, who, since the occupation of this building, have subscribed the promise to obey the Rules and Regulations, and have thus secured for themselves the full enjoyment of the privileges of the institution.

During the year the Library was open 288 days. The whole number of loans of books for home use was 180,302, making a daily average of 626 volumes. In addition to these, there have been 10,263 loans of books to be used only in the build-

ing. These numbers do not include the statistics of the use of the reviews and journals, the best in all languages, placed in the Reading Room, nor of the daily visits to consult the Specifications of English Patents, nor of the constant calls which are made for the verification of single facts, or names, or dates, suddenly brought into question,—it may be in a court of law, or by editors, clergymen, teachers, and authors,—a single inquiry often demanding hasty reference to ten, twenty, or even hundreds of volumes. It would be interesting to state, were it not from the nature of the case impossible to do so, except in the most general terms, the value of the Library for this unrecorded kind of use, and to report the thanks so frequently expressed for assistance thus rendered. In some days when the number has been counted, it has been ascertained that more than 2,000 persons have visited the Library, for literary purposes, besides those who came from mere curiosity.

The issue of books from the Upper Hall has been quite as large as was expected, the books being for the most part such as are needed for reference and research rather than for mere reading. All books which it was supposed would be frequently called for, have, from the beginning, been placed in the Lower Hall, where their free circulation has been facilitated by all proper means known to those who have the care of the Library. The circulation in the Lower Hall alone has, during the present year, reached the unprecedented number of 172,902, making a daily average of 600 and a fraction.

It would be gratifying, were it possible, to state exactly the proportion of books called for in the various departments of knowledge. The rapid methods of the Lower Library preclude such inquiries. In the Upper Hall the investigation is practicable but less important, inasmuch as all the books are of a substantial and standard character. It may not be without interest, however, to state the percentage of use of some of the principal classes of books in the Upper Hall.

English history, local and general	18	pr. ct.
American history, and early literature	12½	“
Theology, and ethics	12	“
Useful arts, and fine arts	8	“
Medicine	7	“
French history and literature	6½	“
Mathematical and physical science	5½	“
Oriental history and literature	4	“
German history and literature	3½	“
Jurisprudence	3	“
Greek and Latin classics	2½	“
Italian history, and literature	2½	“

The number of books missing from the shelves, and unaccounted for at this date, (not however including those reported in previous years as missing,) is 294. We may hope that more than half of them will be returned. The remainder are generally works of small pecuniary value, and were doubtless lost by such accidents as are to be expected, where books are freely placed in the hands of the young, and indeed of others who most need them. But I may safely, here say, that there is no evidence that a single volume has been taken this year from the Library, because of its pecuniary value.

The number of volumes reported as worn out is 306.

The places of books previously reported as missing or worn out, have, many of them, been filled by copies purchased anew, and at small cost. Some losses, and much wear must be expected. But the real loss to the City is very small. The fines for the detention of books beyond the time allowed, (this year amounting to \$133.63,) would generally replace the books hopelessly lost, and the annual expense of repurchasing books condemned has not exceeded \$300, a comparatively small item of expenditure, and one which no person would desire to save by curtailing the privileges of those by whom the damage is for the most part undesignedly done. It is people of more preten-

sion and of better opportunities who most abuse the books, and disgrace themselves by occasional mutilations, and by marking and drawing in margins, and making comments upon particular passages, to the disgust of all future readers. Such ill-bred practices are deserving of strong reprehension, and should, when traced to their authors, be severely punished. I have referred to the matter in former reports, and I must add that in my opinion the Library has much more to fear from this source than from deliberate theft, or honest though sometimes too careless usage.

During the year, the books which had accumulated while the larger Index was in press, amounting to upwards of 12,000 volumes, exclusive of the library of Mr. Parker, after having been fully catalogued, have been placed permanently upon the shelves for public use. The books of the Parker Library have also been fully catalogued, and more than half of the titles have passed their final revision. The shelves designed for their accommodation have been erected, the work of binding and repairing the books is in progress, and in the course of a few months a new Supplement to the Index, comprising the additions above named, in all more than 23,000 volumes, will be ready for the press.

The experience of a year with the full Index, and the uniform expressions of those who have used it, show beyond cavil that provision as ample as is there offered, was indispensable to meet the wants of the frequenters of the Library.

This is the tenth year since the organization of the Library, the fifth since the dedication of the building, the fourth since the opening of the Lower Hall to the public, and the first since the commencement of the full activities of the institution, with catalogues, indexes, and other apparatus for research completed. I have thought that it would be interesting to present at this time, in condensed form, for examination and comparison, the prominent facts relative to the increase, the use, and the losses of the Library; and to this end have compiled the three tables following.

TABLE I.

VOLUMES IN THE LIBRARY.					YEARLY INCREASE.					MONEY EXPENDED.		Appropriations by the City.
Years.	Whole Number.		Upper Hall.	Lower Hall.	Duplicates.	Whole Number.		Donations.		Purchase.	Books and Periodicals.		Total Expend.Pres.
	Volumes.	Pamphlets.				Volumes.	Pamphs.	Volumes.	Pamphs.	Volumes.	Pamphs.	
1852.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$ 2,000
1853.....	9,688	961	.....	.....	..	9,688	961	4,000	961	5,688	..	\$ 4,693 92
1854.....	16,221	3,950	.....	.....	..	6,533	2,989	2,152	2,989	4,381	..	6,927 52
1854-55..	22,617	6,507	.....	.....	..	6,396	2,557	2,663	2,468	3,733	89	4,773 53
1855-56..	28,080	12,386	.....	.....	..	5,463	5,879	1,865	5,330	3,598	549	6,159 86
1856-57..	34,896	16,053	.....	.....	..	6,816	3,667	1,686	3,646	5,130	21	10,641 18
1857-58..	70,851	17,938	.....	.....	..	35,955	1,885	30,214	1,885	5,741	..	5,081 44
1858-59..	78,043	19,255	60,420	15,819	1,804	7,192	1,317	3,405	1,317	3,787	..	5,504 80
1859-60..	85,032	20,707	66,228	17,000	1,804	6,989	1,452	3,744	1,452	3,245	..	2,963 07
1860-61..	97,386	27,381	75,217	19,161	3,008	16,948	6,674	12,299	6,656	4,619	18	4,514 30
1861-62..	105,034	28,874	84,153	20,881	4,794	7,391	1,493	1,274	1,493	6,117	..	9,401 83
												\$ 24,000

NOTE. — To account for some discrepancies noticeable in the above table, compiled from the Annual Reports, it should be stated, that, prior to the report of 1861, the annual statement of the whole number of volumes was obtained by adding the accessions of the year to the previous aggregates; and although the numbers are now obtained by actually counting the books upon the shelf lists, there still remain several sources of unavoidable discrepancies, such as the following: Works reported at first as containing a certain number of volumes, afterwards for good reasons bound in a different number; works reported as duplicates subsequently exchanged for works in a different number of volumes; pamphlets bound separately and counted as books; also volumes lost or worn out, but for some reason not replaced, which disappear in the aggregates, but remain as originally reported among the accessions.

TABLE II.

YEAR.	SIGNATURES.	CIRCULATION.					
		Whole No Lent.	Daily Av'ge.	Largest No. in one day	Date.	Lent in Upper Hall.	Used in Upper Hall.
1854....	6,590	35,389	250	535	Sep. 16	....	.....
1855....	3,905	81,281	284	606	Feb. 10	....	.....
1856....	2,361	82,661	291	647	Feb. 23	....	.....
1857....	2,236	89,423	310	730	Jan. 24	....	.....
1858....	1,974	75,570	383	693	Feb. 27	....	.....
1859....	13,329	149,468	588.5	1,335	Mar. 5	....	.....
1860....	4,809	151,020	508.5	1,052	Feb. 4	....	.....
1861....	4,522	160,877	587.1	1,303	Feb. 23	....	.....
1862....	4,326	180,302	626	1,517	Mar. 1	7,400	10,263

TABLE III.

YEAR.	Books Missing.	Books Regained.	Books Worn out.	Books Replaced.	Amount of Fines.
1854.....	20	...	Previous to 1858, in all 200 vols.	...	87 30
1854-55.....	98	...		...	200 27
1855-56.....	149	...		...	262 13
1856-57.....	217	...		...	130 85
1857-58.....	...*	...		...	100 21
1858-59.....	130	42		...	143 02
1859-60.....	262	119	116	...	101 27
1860-61.....	340	107	261	157	81 00
1861-62.....	294	...	306	206	133 63

* The Library was removed to the new building during the summer of 1858, and no account of missing books was taken until the following year.

These tables are not only interesting, but instructive and suggestive. The great rapidity of increase in the extent of the Library, and in its circulation, has been from year to year the topic of remark and congratulation. Upon this I need not now enlarge.

There is one fact disclosed by these statistics, which perhaps will strike some with surprise, namely, the great proportion of books presented. It should be remarked also, that more than two thirds of those reported as purchased were procured from the income of the several funds, and therefore should properly be called donations. Making this correction, it would appear that more than three quarters of the Library have been presented to the City.

A very important deduction from this fact is that a great amount of permanent property, (marketable property, if it were right or desirable to sell it,) has accrued to the city by the expenditures made for the Public Library. These appropriations were made to promote the intellectual and moral interests of the people. It is this purpose alone which furnishes the motive, the justification, the necessity, we might almost say, for the maintenance of the institution. But it is, after all, satisfactory to know that the whole expenditure finds no small material and tangible justification as an investment of money. These books are actual property, which could at any time be sold, and (the depreciation by wear and injury apart) they would in the aggregate increase rather than diminish in value. It is difficult to estimate the market value of such a collection, but I believe it may be said that if sold now it would produce enough to refund all that the books have cost, and a considerable portion of all that has been expended for the care and circulation of them since the Library was established. Valuable donations to the Library will doubtless increase, and this suggestion will be more and more forcible, and ere long the City, while procuring for itself the vast benefits of this wide

use of valuable books, may find itself accumulating property thereby. “There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth.”

Another fact disclosed by the last of the tables is, that the loss and the wear of the books is after all a small matter when compared with the great extent and importance of the free circulation of them. It is a small annual percentage of renewal, and it vindicates the good judgment and the faith which gave this great boon to the people — the whole people of the city, without reserve.

In concluding this report, I am happy to place on record my testimony to the diligence and fidelity of all the persons employed in the Library in various capacities, and to their cheerful co-operation with each other and with myself in promoting the success of the institution.

I append to this report a paper marked B B, containing the usual financial statement.

All which is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES C. JEWETT, *Superintendent.*

November 2, 1862.

[AA]

LIST OF DONORS.

Bates, Joshua, London, interest of fund	.	.	\$3,000	00
Bigelow, Hon. John P.	"	"	.	60 00
Lawrence, Hon. Abbott,	"	"	.	600 00
Phillips, Hon. Jonathan,	"	"	.	1,800 00
Townsend, Mary P.	"	"	.	240 00

	Vols.	Tracts.
Albany, Young Men's Association		1
Alberi, Cav. Eugenio, Florence	1	
Alden, Ebenezer, M. D., Randolph		13
Alger, Francis	1	
Alger, Rev. William R.		1
American Unitarian Association		11
Ames, J. W.	6	
Ann Arbor, University of, Michigan		2
Anonymous	6	80
Appleton, Hon. William	1	
Aspinwall, William, Brookline	2	
Atherton, Mrs. A.	1	
Aumale, The Duke D'	3	
Babbitt, Mrs. Mary A.	1	
Balfour, David M.	3	
Baltimore, Maryland Historical Society		1
Bartlett, Hon. J. R., Providence, R. I.	1	
Bartol, Rev. George M.		2 Maps.
Bates, Samuel P., Harrisburg, Pa.	1	
Bell, W. H.		1
Bendelari, A.	1	

	Vols.	Tracts.
Bigelow, Erastus B.	1	
Bigelow, Jacob, M. D.	49	
Bocher, Ferdinand	2	
Boston, City of	2	
Boston. American Academy of Arts and Sciences,	1	
Boston. American Baptist Missionary Union .	51	
Boston. Amer. Board of Comm'rs for For. Mis'ns,	45	
Boston Board of Trade	1	
Boston. Warren Street Chapel		1
Boston Courier, Proprietors	2	
Boston Gas Light Company	4	
Botta, Prof. Vincenzo, New York	2	1
Boyd, Susan E.	1	
Bradlee, Rev. Caleb D.	1	
Brewer, Thomas M., M. D.	11	
Brookline. Christ's Church, Longwood	1	
Brooklyn, N. Y., Mercantile Library Association,		1
Brooks, Francis A.	21	
Burgess, Rev. Ebenezer	1	
Burnham, T. O. H. P.	23	
Burroughs, Rev. Henry, jr.	1	
Cambridge. Harvard College	1	1
Cambridge. Harvard College Observatory . .	1	
Cambridge. Harvard Magazine, Publishers .		6
Canada. Library of Parliament	1	
Carter & Brothers		2
Chicago Board of Trade		1
Chicago Historical Society		1
Child, Prof. Francis J., Cambridge	1	
Christern, F. W., New York	2	
Cincinnati, Young Men's Mercantile Lib. Asso'n,		2
Clark, Henry, Poultney, Vt.	1	1
Cogswell, Joseph G., LL. D., New York . . .	1	
Collins, G. L., Providence, R. I.		1
Colton, John F.	1	
Comegys, C. L.	3	
Copeland, Elisha	3	28
Cowley, Charles		1
Cranch, William G., Washington, D. C. . .	46	
Crowley, Lawrence T.	1	
Cummings, A. I., M. D., Roxbury		1

	Vols.	Tracts.
Curtis, D. Sargent	2	
Davis, A. J. & Co., New York	1	
Dawson, Henry B., Morrisania, New York	1	1
Dennett, William H.		1
De Wolf, John	1	
Dixwell, J. J.	5	
Dudley, Dean	1	
Dunphy, James W., 14 numbers of newspapers.		
Dutton, E. P. & Co.		12
Edinburgh, Royal Society	1	1
Eliot, Mrs. S. A., a valuable Clock and MSS.	2	
Eliot, Samuel, Pres. Trinity College, Hartford,		1
Everett, Hon. Edward, 425 Nos. of newspapers,	4	64
Fall River, Public Library	1	2
Fish, Asa L., Philadelphia		1
Flint & Hall	1	
Foley, William J.	8	
Forbes, R. B., Milton		1
Fowle, George	1	
Frothingham, N. L., D. D.	1	
Fuller, Rev. A. B.		1
Gay, Mrs. George, 8 numbers of newspapers	14	166
Great Britain. Commissioners of Patents		
Greenough, William W., 306 Nos. of newspapers,	2	
Greenwich, Royal Observatory		1
Haines, E. M.		1
Hale, Rev. E. E.	58	129
Hall, Charles B.		6
Hall, Oliver, Dorchester		1
Hall, W. W., M. D.		12
Hanaford, Mrs. J. H.		1
Hanover, N. H., Dartmouth College		2
Harris, Miss L. P.	2	
Harvard Musical Association		1
Hastings, H. L.	1	
Haynes, Henry W.	1	
Heywood, Ezra	1	
Hodges, R. M., M. D.	1	
Hodsdon, John L., Adjutant-Gen., Augusta, Me.	1	
Homer, George	1	
Hood, Charles	1	

	Vols.	Tracts
Hooper, Robert C.	1	
Hooper, Hon. Samuel	5	
Humphreys, E. R., LL. D.		3
Jackson, Charles T., M. D.	1	
Jarvis, Edward, M. D., Dorchester	1	4
Jenks, Harriet N.		2
Jenks, William, D. D.	1	
Ladreyt, Casimir	3	
Lamson, A., D. D., Dedham	1	8
Lawrence, Abbott	91	344
Lawrence, James	61	
Lawrence, T. Bigelow	2	1
Lenox, J., New York	2	
Lieber, Francis, LL. D., New York	1	
Lighthill, Dr. A. P.	2	
Littell, E.	1	
Liverpool, Literary and Philosophical Society	1	
London, Eng. Corporation of	1	1
London. British Museum	16	
London. Institution of Civil Engineers	1	
London. Royal Astronomical Society	2	9
London. Royal Geographical Society	2	3
London. Royal Society	1	
Loring, F. W.		85
Loring, J. Spear	12	56
Loring, Samuel, Hull	1	
Lowell, City of		1
Lowell, City Library	1	
MacCarthy, Denis F., Dalkey, Ireland	1	
McGuire, J. C., Washington, D. C., 1 MS.	1	
Marcou, Jules	6	
Massachusetts, State of	2	
Massachusetts Historical Society	2	5
Massachusetts Horticultural Society	1	
May, Rev. S. J.	1	
Merriam, J. W., M. D., 53 Nos. of newspapers.		
Milwaukee, Young Men's Association	1	
Miner, Rev. A. A.		1
Monitor, The, Proprietors of 2 papers.		
Moore, Charles W.		11
Morrissey, J.	1	

	Vols.	Tracts.
Morton, Dr. W. T. G.	1	26
Motley, Thomas		1
Mussey, Reuben D., M. D.	1	
Napoleon III., Emperor of the French	3	
New Bedford, Public Library		1
Newburyport, Public Library		1
N. E. Historic Genealogical Society		1
New York, Regents of the University of	9	10
New York Chamber of Commerce	1	
New York. Christian Inquirer	1	
New York. Mercantile Library Association	1	4
Newman, Sylvanus C.	1	
Ohio, State Library	2	1
Parker, Henry T., London	7	1
Penniman, B. F.	1	
Pettes, John O.	3	
Philadelphia. American Philosophical Society		2
Philadelphia Board of Trade	3	5
Philadelphia Library Company		1
Philadelphia, Mercantile Library		1
Philbrick, John D.	1	
Picard, William, Cadiz	1	
Pike, J. G. W., M. D.	45	
Pittsburgh, Young Men's Mercantile Lib. Asso'n,		1
Pittsfield, Berkshire Medical Journal		1
Polkinhorn, Henry, Washington, D. C.		112
Prior, William M.	6	
Providence, R. I., City of		1
Providence, Butler Hospital for the Insane		1
Providence, Grand Lodge of the State of R. I.		1
Punchard, George	1	2
Quincy, Eliza Susan	1	
Rhode Island, State of		1
Rice, Hon. Alexander H.	22	
Richardson, James B.	2	
Rider, S. S.		1
Rumble, Adrianna	1	
Salem, Essex Institute		6
Sawyer, F. W.	2	
Scudder, Charles	1	
Sharswood, William		1

	Vols.	Traacts.
Shaw, Benjamin S., M. D.		33
Sherman, Henry, Hartford, Conn.	1	
Sibley, J. L., Cambridge		1
Sinderby, William	3	
Smith, C. C.		1
Smith Samuel, City Clerk, Worcester	1	
Snow, Edwin, M. D., Providence, R. I.		1
South Danvers, Peabody Institute		1
Spooner, J. P.	1	
Spurr, Oliver H.	3	1
Stark, Dr. James, Edinburgh	1	
Steele, G. M.	7	2
Storer, F. H.	4	92
Sumner, Hon. Charles	12	13
Thayer, Alexander W.	1	
Thayer, Col. Sylvanus, Braintree	11	
Thayer, Rev. Thomas B.	3	3
Thwing, Thomas		2
Ticknor, George	156	
Tolman, Henry & Co., 10 Nos. of newspapers.		
Treadwell, Prof. Daniel, Cambridge		1
Trubner & Co., London	8	
Urbino S., 3 Engravings		4
U. S., Bureau of Topographi'l Eng'rs, S. H. Long,	1	
United States, Department of the Interior	39	
United States, Sanitary Commission		33
Vattemare, Alexander, Paris	132	2
Venice, Istituto Veneto di scienze, lettere ed arti,	3	10
Vienna, K. k. geologische Reichsanstalt	1	1
Walker, Wise, & Co.	1	
Wallcut, Robert F.	1	
Ware, Rev. L. G.	4	
Warren, J. Mason, M. D.	3	2
Washington. Smithsonian Institution	5	
Wells, Rev. E. M. P.		2
Whitney, Rev. F. A., Longwood	2	1
Wigglesworth, Miss	1	
Williams, Henry W., M. D.	1	
Williams, J. D. W., Roxbury, 10 pieces Music,	50	20
Willis, Nathaniel, 175 numbers of newspapers,		3
Wilson, Hon. Henry	36	

	Vols.	Tracts.
Winsor, Philadelphia	1	
Winthrop, Hon. R. C.	1	4
Wisconsin, State of	1	
Wisconsin, Institution for the Blind		6
Worcester. American Antiquarian Society	1	2
Worcester Public Library		1
Worthington & Flanders, Prop'rs of the Traveller,	2	
Wright, Elizur	3	5
Wright, Henry C.	6	

[BB]

FINANCIAL STATEMENT,

*For one year, from November 1, 1861, to October 31, 1862,
inclusive.*

Binding	\$ 1,390 16
Books, including remittances to Europe	9,401 83
Expense, including repairs, tools, water, etc.	638 52
Fuel	770 25
Furniture and fixtures	454 11
Gas	943 10
Printing	1,346 91
Salaries	12,031 71
Stationery	316 95
Transportation, including insurance, postage, etc.,	361 35
	<hr/>
	\$ 27,654 89

[C]

BOSTON, *October 6, 1862.*

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

GENTLEMEN: In the winter of 1837-38, my friend, the late Mr. Prescott, entertained the project of writing a *Life of Molière*, involving, of course, an examination of his works. As I happened then to be in Paris, he addressed himself to me to procure for him a small collection of books, sufficient for such a purpose. By the assistance of Mr. Jules Taschereau, who, some years before, had published the amplest *Life of Molière* yet extant, and who is now at the head of the Imperial Library in Paris, I easily fulfilled the little commission entrusted to me, so far as it was possible to do it at a very short notice. The books that could be found were soon and safely sent. But happily, the brilliant success of the *Ferdinand and Isabella*, which just then came from the press, induced its author to confine his labors for the rest of his life to subjects strictly connected with Spanish history. He therefore never made any especial use of his collection of books concerning *Molière*.

But about a dozen years afterwards he gave me such of the books in this collection as I did not possess already, thinking that I might myself undertake the pleasant task which he had abandoned. Until lately, it has been my purpose to do so; and therefore, as opportunities have offered, I have not failed to add to the books I had received from him and to those in my own library, any others which I thought would increase the value of the entire collection. But many cares and duties have, for some years, turned my thoughts away from *Molière*, and now both my own age and the troubles that oppress the country

leave me no right to hope that I shall be permitted to fulfil what had been my friend's wish as well as my own.

I desire however, if possible, to make the collection which it has taken above twenty years to bring together, useful to some scholar in the dark future; and, therefore, I now offer it to the acceptance of the Trustees of the Public Library, under whose care it can appropriately rest, until it shall be again wanted. The number of volumes embraced in it is above an hundred and thirty. Of these, twenty once belonged to Mr. Prescott, and can be readily distinguished by his book-plate, — a circumstance I mention because I think that the proof it affords of their former ownership will add much to their value in the eyes of those who may come after us, as it has always added much to their value in mine. The remainder — many of them rarities — have been, from time to time, picked up as I have happened to find them. Taken together, I believe they constitute a collection not without its bibliographical value, and one which does not leave much to be desired by any studious person who may wish to examine critically the works of Molière or to write his life.

For all the common purposes of a general library — and, indeed, for any purposes except the two just mentioned — the resources of our own institution are, I suppose, so far as Molière is concerned, already ample. I therefore wish to make it a condition of the present gift, that none of the volumes embraced in it shall be permitted, at any time, to leave the proper rooms of the Library, except for binding and repairs; but that all shall hereafter be constantly accessible for reference and use within the building itself, under such regulations as the Trustees or other persons having lawful authority in the premises may see fit to prescribe.

So much providence for the future may, I hope, be regarded by the Trustees as no more than a becoming caution respecting a collection much of whose value consists in its being kept

unbroken, and many of whose volumes can with difficulty be replaced if lost, while others should, I think, be preserved with more than common care, because they are connected with the memory of one of whom our city will always be proud.

I remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,)

GEORGE TICKNOR.

APPENDIX.

CITY OF BOSTON.

PUBLIC LIBRARY, BOSTON, 6 *August*, 1862.

TO HIS HONOR JOSEPH M. WIGHTMAN, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BOSTON.

SIR : In compliance with instructions of the Trustees of the Public Library, I have the honor to send to you the accompanying papers containing the petition of William Dwight, and others, with the action of the Board thereon.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

C. C. JEWETT,

Secretary of the Board of Trustees.

PETITION.

The undersigned, owners of real estate, and payers of rent in the city of Boston, but not voters, respectfully represent that we contribute directly and indirectly to the support of the Public Library, and therefore pray that we may be permitted to take books therefrom, under such provisions as the Trustees may deem proper for the safety of the Library.

BOSTON, *January*, 1862.

William Dwight,	I. Amory Davis,
R. Waldo Emerson,	Leverett Saltonstall,
George T. Curtis, (<i>payer of</i>	Henry Lee, Jr.,
<i>rent in Boston, not an owner</i>	H. K. Horton,
<i>of real estate.</i>)	F. Skinner,
George Minot, (<i>as payer of</i>	E. R. Mudge,
<i>rent.</i>)	James S. Amory,
F. O. Prince,	J. A. Burnham,
Richard H. Dana, Jr.,	Stephen M. Weld, (for G.
Francis Brooks,	Weld.)
John C. Lee,	L. M. Sargent,
F. M. Weld,	Joseph Lyman,
George Baty Blake,	Samuel Cabot.
Isaac Livermore,	

IN BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY,
August 5, 1862.

The Committee of the Trustees, to whom was referred the application of William Dwight, and others, non-resident tax-payers, for permission to borrow books from the Public Library, beg leave to Report :

That this application is made by persons of the highest respectability, residing in the neighboring towns, and assessed, in the aggregate, to about 1,600,000 dollars worth of real property. The Committee are convinced that the gentlemen whose names are subscribed to the Memorial, are every one of them persons who would make a good use of the privilege applied for, and who in turn might be depended upon as valuable friends of the institution. Being aware, however, that the subject of extending the privileges of resident citizens to non-resident tax-payers, has, on several occasions, engaged the attention of the Municipal Government ; the Committee are of opinion that the present application should be referred to the discretion of the City Council. They accordingly report a Resolution to give it that direction, expressing at the same time the hope that, if granted, it may be with due security for the proper responsibilities in the use and return of books.

Respectfully submitted by

EDWARD EVERETT,
GEORGE TICKNOR,
JOHN P. BIGELOW.

RESOLVED : That the application of William Dwight and others, non-resident tax-payers, to be allowed to borrow books from the Public Library, be referred to the City Council ; and if the Council should see fit to grant the prayer of the Memorial, it is respectfully recommended that the Trustees be authorized to establish suitable regulations relative to the use and return of the books.

IN BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY,
BOSTON, *August 5, 1862.*

Mr. Everett, from the select committee, upon the petition of William Dwight, and others, presented a report in writing, which was accepted.

A motion was made to adopt the Resolution appended to the report, and the yeas and nays were called for. The question being taken, Messrs. Everett, Ticknor, Bigelow, Greenough, and Wilson, being all of the Trustees present, voted in the affirmative.

So the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

A true copy, from the record.

Attest :

C. C. JEWETT, *Secretary.*

In Board of Aldermen, August 18, 1862.

Read and referred to the Committee on the Public Library.
Sent down for concurrence.

THOMAS P. RICH, *Chairman.*

In Common Council, September 8, 1862.

Concurred.

JOSHUA D. BALL, *President.*

CITY OF BOSTON.

In Board of Aldermen, November 10, 1862.

THE Committee on the Public Library, to whom was referred a communication from the Trustees of the Library, transmitting their vote upon the petition of William Dwight and other non-resident tax-payers for permission to use the Public Library, beg leave to Report :

That this matter has been brought to the attention of the Trustees on several occasions previous to the presentation of the petition of Messrs. Dwight and others, and their judgment has always been adverse to granting any application of the kind. It is true that many if not all the gentlemen who now ask the privilege of taking books from the Library are identified with the city in respect to its business interests and occupations, and they deem their residence elsewhere an insufficient obstacle in the way of their sharing with our citizens the privilege, of the Public Library. It is also true that it is in accordance with the intention of the originators of the institution and with its present management, to make the scope of its usefulness in disseminating information and intelligence as wide as is consistent with sound principles of public policy. Those principles however seem to us clearly to dictate that the Public Library, like the public schools, shall be carried on for the benefit solely of residents of the city. The appeal made to us to extend the use of the Library to non-resident tax-payers, could be made with

equal propriety in behalf of the participation by the children of the same class of persons in the benefits of our public schools. It is obvious that any rule permitting either of these things must be subject to many limitations and restrictions, which might still be ineffectual to prevent inequality and abuse in its practice. The true policy is to maintain institutions of education for the advantage of our own citizens. These institutions are sustained at great expense, and they are powerful agents in shaping the character of the people and in supplying the intelligence and learning which build up our commerce, and which give the city its rank among cities and its reputation among men. To supply these advantages to non-residents simply because they have a greater or less property interest in the city, would be unjustly to discriminate against our own citizens, not only as to the convenient and serviceable use of those advantages, but by removing some of the strongest inducements for the residence in the city of men of means and taste.

In respect to the Public Library, it may be added that its doors are not entirely closed to any person. Although the number of persons residing within our boundaries who use the Library is quite as great as is consistent with its efficient and satisfactory administration, still any respectable person may at any time obtain opportunity to consult and read books in the Library Building. Beyond this, it is the unanimous opinion of the Committee that non-residents should not be privileged.

The Committee recommend, in order that the policy of the City Council may be settled and put upon record, the passage of the accompanying Resolve.

For the Committee,

E. T. WILSON, *Chairman*.

RESOLVED: That in the opinion of the City Council, it is inexpedient and impolitic to extend the privilege of taking books from the Public Library to non-residents.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



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